The C.B.I. are pursuing these investigations.

The Government of India has also filed a complaint in the United States Federal District Court, Southern District New York against Union Carbide, claiming *inter-alia,* compensatory and punitive damages.

(b) Does not arise.

Alleged Embezzlement in Dhameta Post Office

2858. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the employees posted in the Post Office—Dhameta, District Kangra (HP) have recently made embezzlement in Government money and in the accounts of pensioners of defence personnel and widow pensioners;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint from the public in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the past some employees of the above mentioned Post Office have been transferred to another Post Offices in spite of the fact that there was nothing against them in the records whereas the guilty employees who have made the said embezzlement were posted in this Post Office; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is a fact that in the past, three departmental employees who were found to have been involved in a money order fraud case were transferred out of Dhameta Post Office. None of the three is working at Dhameta Post Office presently.

(d) Criminal prosecution has been launched against an extra departmental delivery agent, the main offender. Other official found negligent were departmentally dealt with.

Mining lease to M/s. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited

2859. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat owned company M/s. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited (GMDC) has applied for mining lease for coal in an area of 358 hectares in Khakharthal, Tarnetar, Chandrelia in Surendranagar district in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have sanctioned the mining lease; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, by when the Government is likely to sanction the mining lease to M/s. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) In July, 1979, it was decided by the Central Government that while continuing the existing policy of the Government carrying out coal mining operations in the country by its own undertakings, the State Governments might also be allowed to carry out coal mining operations in 'isolated small pockets" subject to certain conditions laid down in this regard.

In February, 1980 the State Government of Gujarat approached the Central Government for grant of mining lease in favour of Gujarat Minerals Development Corporation Limited for exploitation of coal in villages Khakharthal, Tarnetar, Chandrelia and Velala in District Surendranagar. They